

Kharif 2006 season

| Food Crops/Oilseeds | Annual Comm./Hort. Crops |
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| Paddy, Bajra, Black gram, Castor, Redgram, Sunflower, Sesamum, Greengram, Groundnut (Irrigated), Groundnut (unirrigated), Jower, Maize, Soyabean (2 Districts) | Cotton (irrigated), Cotton (unirrigated), Banana (unirrigated), Sugarcane (plant), Sugarcane (ratoon), Sunflower, Chilly (irrigated), Chilly (unirrigated) |

Damage to ozone layer due to refrigerators and A.C. machines

*360. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of refrigerators and A.C. machines is on the increase;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the increased use of these machines is harming the ozone layer; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save the ozone layer?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) India is party to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. India has prepared a country programme as required under the Protocol to phase out the production and consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). In terms of the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, which is part of the country programme, use of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which damage the Ozone Layer in Refrigerators and Mobile Air-conditioners has been phased out from 1.1.2003. In Air-conditioners, Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) is used, which has low Ozone Depleting Potential and which will be phased out by 1.1.2040 in terms of the Decisions under the Multilateral Montreal Protocol.